

GRAPENE

VISITACION VALLEY

NUMBER 141

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

APRIL 1998

Valley Candidates For the People

Two Visitacion Valley residents recently announced their candidacy for the County Central Committee Democratic Party, 12th District.

Both Marlene Tran, a local educator, and Ann Williams, a career development specialist are well known in the neighborhood. Both are members of the Visitacion Valley Task Force.

A teacher for more than 26 years in both the San Francisco Unified School District and at City College, Tran spearheaded an initiative to greatly expand ESL classes in Visitacion Valley.

"I want to be the voice of the people," Tran explained of her desire to actively help residents be involved in a government accessible to them.

A San Francisco resident for more than 50 years, Williams has received numerous awards while working for the federal government, holding titles of EEO Manager, Personnel Specialist, Handicap Program Manager and Career Development Specialist. She currently assists the community through Visitacion Valley Job Education and Training (VVJET) and Dynamic Development Associates, which provides consultation service.

"We need real people to deal with real issues and concerns," said Williams, who wants to be in a position to create change in the structure while being the voice and vehicle of her neighbors.



ESL Instructor Marlene Tran (L) and Ann Williams of VVJET are Visitacion Valley's candidates for the Democratic Central Committee's 12th District election on June 2.

Ralph, the Giant Slayer

Garbage Company Meets Nemesis

by Peter Byrne, Editor and Publisher
San Francisco Investigator

Last spring, Norcal Waste Systems, Inc. was severely wounded in a major battle with neighbors from Little Hollywood, led by retired fire sprinkler installer Ralph Oroquita. San Francisco's major dailies remained deathly silent as David pounded Goliath. Little Hollywood's hard-fought victory was reported only in The Grapevine, a south-east San Francisco community newspaper.

The rest of the City never learned about the humiliating defeat of the giant garbage octopus at the hands of the common man. Let it now be known. Oroquita's stunning triumph saved San Franciscans \$80 million and will prolong the average life span of people who live near the Tunnel Avenue dump. Let it also be known that Norcal Waste Systems, Inc. has seriously fallen down on its job—jeopardizing the quality of our municipal waste removal system.

Norcal Waste Systems, Inc., is an "employee-owned" garbage conglomerate composed of over two dozen refuse collection and recycling companies. On June 25, 1997, Norcal formally withdrew an application to expand operations and to consolidate its scattered recycling facilities onto a single site within its 21-acre Tunnel Avenue dump, which butts up against San Francisco's border with Brisbane. This simple action constituted Norcal's surrender to the 1,400 residents of Little Hollywood.

One reason Norcal applied to expand operations is a requirement of state law that San Francisco recycle fifty percent of our garbage by the year 2000. Accomplishing this goal requires change. Change must be certified as acceptable through the auspices of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Norcal was counting on the environmental review process to rubber-stamp the safety of its expansion; and to justify Norcal's intention to make ratepayers pick up the tab for its business costs.

Norcal's monopoly-sweetheart deal with City Hall means that Norcal never has to risk a dime, or suffer a financial loss. Norcal's inefficiencies are re-

with the expensive application was a precursor to submitting a full-blown Environmental Impact Report. Norcal's preparations for achieving government approval of its expansion plan began in the late 1980s. An exhaustive EIR was required by the state, if Norcal was to expand the privately-owned garbage transfer station and hazardous materials collection facilities at the dump.

State law requires that San Francisco develop the capacity to sort and recycle fifty percent of our garbage by the end of year 2000, but, it is unlikely that the deadline will be met. In 1995, Norcal's newsletter, Talking Trash, reported that approximately 35 percent of the waste stream was being recycled. Two and one-half years later, Norcal reports that approximately 36 percent is recycled.

One of Norcal's problems is that the technology at the Tunnel Avenue dump is not capable of adequately sorting food garbage from trash. Norcal is reluctant to make a capital investment in constructing a state-of-the-art facility; unless, of course, Norcal can convince City Hall to subsidize Norcal's privately-owned venture to an even greater extent than it now does.

Without spending many millions on upgrades, expansions, and consolidations the Garbage 2000 goal cannot be met. Yet, the proto-EIR showed that the Tunnel Avenue dump site is too near a residential neighborhood to safely increase its level of waste sorting activity. Norcal needs more land.

The Little Hollywood Committee for Environmental Justice, Equity, and Compensation recommends that Norcal purchase some of the vast and empty warehouses located in the Central Basin Waterfront area off Third Street. But, Norcal seems more inclined to wait, to avoid large investments; and to jolly the public along with an array of cosmetic "pilot" recycling programs—paid for by the public. The eleven "pilot" programs in place are designed to hide fundamental operating flaws, long-term planning errors, and the unwillingness of Norcal stockholders to capitalize their own company.

When Norcal is inevitably found to be in violation of state recycling law, the "employee-owned" corporation

will turn to San Francisco taxpayers to bail them out, to make sure that not a dime of Norcal's monopoly profits goes to improving equipment and infrastructure, and to gift them with land. Without any competitors to Norcal on the horizon, the garbage company is likely to succeed in this with regular rate increases. Even the \$3.8 million cost of Norcal's withdrawn application was picked up by the ratepayers.

The research and analysis associated strategy of blackmailing the consumer

The ramifications of Norcal's proposed expansion were shown to be damaging to the overall environment of San Francisco, and particularly unhealthy for the surrounding residential communities. After Oroquita and Little Hollywood exposed the plan's deficiencies in a series of public meetings—and threatened to file a powerful just lawsuit—Norcal ditched the multi-million dollar application.

See Page 4

St. Luke's Hospital Launches Women's Health Campaign

St. Luke's Hospital has launched a three-month campaign to educate local residents about the availability of comprehensive health services for women of all ages and economic means.

The campaign is the result of a survey of residents in neighborhoods near St. Luke's that showed little recognition of services available at its Women's Center.

"Nearly 30 percent of women surveyed said they didn't realize that as a privately insured, Medi-Cal or Medicare patient they can use our services," explained Duane Oshinomi, director of community relations.

Although the program routinely cares for more than 500 women each week, Oshinomi said many people mistakenly believe their only choice is the county hospital. "We intend to change that through an aggressive education program," he said, noting that "this is just the first in a series of ini-

Organizers Want Towers Implosion

Part of Neighborhood Day Weekend

Organizers for Visitacion Valley's upcoming *Neighborhood Day* told Task Force members Mar. 28 they would like to see the impending implosion of Geneva Towers take place the same weekend as the May 16 community event.

With both 20-story structures now stripped down to bare concrete and nearly ready to be planted with explosives, speculation is great for having a dual celebration. Both events are taking place one block from each other on Schwerin Street. With a motto to "Start late and finish early," *Neighborhood Day* will be replacing the community's annual Street Festival, while the forthcoming Geneva Towers implosion—one of the most anticipated Valley occurrence in decades—will finally relieve a neighborhood of small family structures from the shadows of two out-of-place skyscrapers.

Implosion contractors have already stated that demolition would take place on an early Sunday morning when the least number of residents would be impacted.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

A Membership Committee of the Visitacion Valley Task Force (VVTF) on Mar. 5 expanded the number of available VVTF seats from 21 to 26. Residents will continue to hold 14 seats in seven sub areas, but businesses will be cut from four seats to three. Churches and Community Based Organizations will now each be allotted three seats with Schools now getting two positions. Three new Community at Large seats will only be valid if all other seats are filled.

VVJET EVALUATION

Ann Williams of Visitacion Valley Job Education and Training (VVJET) presented a thorough report of her organization's operations. Based at the *Village* on Schwerin Street, the purpose of VVJET is to decrease crime and violence through employment. Candidates are helped to train for interviews through simulations on how

to speak at an interview. VVJET now has a database of almost 2,000 applicants.

NEW BYLAWS

VVTF members agreed to move the date of review for the organization's new bylaws to May 23.

ANOTHER GREAT SWEEP

Jay Smith of the Mayor's Office of Community Development (MOCD) announced that a second Great Sweep would occur in San Francisco on Saturday, May 9. Hundreds of bags of trash were gathered locally by residents and merchants during the City's successful first event last fall, encouraging a repeat event this spring.

APRIL MEETING POSTPONED

VVTF members voted to postpone their regularly scheduled meeting for April 25 so its members can attend Community Boards training that day to be held from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at VVCC. Next Task Force meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 23, 10:30 a.m. at the Community Center gymnasium, 50 Raymond Ave.

Visitacion Valley Park Clubhouse To be Demolished

Demolition is scheduled to begin April 13 on the clubhouse located at the northeast corner of Visitacion Valley Playground.

Removal of the structure was deemed necessary to prepare the area for a new playground and clubhouse.

Long a graffiti-covered eyesore following its closure years ago, the small one-story structure will take approximately five days to dismantle by contractor Bluewater Environmental.

Work hours will be between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Street parking adjacent to the clubhouse will not be allowed until demolition is completed. Sidewalks along the clubhouse will be temporarily closed.

Two Nations in Contrast

In this second report of his travels, Grapevine reporter Gerry L. Galvan visited both Australia and the Philippines, his native country where he admits of his critical findings, "Truth has to be exposed, no matter how painful."

by Gerry L. Galvan

Although still a relatively untouched continent, Australia has demonstrated, in recent months, a determination to change from decades of commonwealth rule to an independent republic.

Political leaders, including Prime Minister John Howard, had debated the issue for some time. An Australian shift from commonwealth to a republic means the collapse of Great Britain's political and economic control over the "continent way down below the equator."

In direct contrast, the Republic of the Philippines appears to have seriously deteriorated from a first class Asian country.

Such was the impression of your reporter who visited and stayed 120 hours in Sydney and 408 hours in the Philippines this year from Jan. 21 to Feb. 12.

The 22-day trip provided my wife and I with a considerable comparison of how exemplary Australia has grown compared to a rapid backslide the Philippines have experienced in recent years. While Australia, one of the U.S. allies in the Western World, had thrown her timid and cautious support to President Bill Clinton's quarrel with Iraq's Saddam Hussein (We were in Sydney when we read of Clinton's "urgent" telephone call to Mr. Howard), the Philippines, a long-time U.S. sidekick in the Far East, has all but shied away from this volatile issue save for puns and jokes by Manila newspapermen, where columnists instead found the recent Clinton sex scandal a much bigger story.

Violet and I had made this memorable and experience-laden trip primarily to attend the 50th anniversary of her class (1948) graduation



Grapevine reporter Gerry L. Galvan and wife, Violet took a moment from sightseeing to greet an Australian native.

from high school. Aging '48ers celebrated the occasion in Balangkas, Santo Tomas, Pampanga, a town some 45 miles north of metropolitan Manila.

Side trips to Surigao del Sur, in Mindanao, Southern Philippines, and to Sydney, Australia were extras that swelled our travel budget considerably. It was costly to our meager resources as well as our health, with both my wife and I very sick upon returning to the U.S. even though we had taken precautionary health measures before our initial departure.

Our experience in Metro Manila, followed by Surigao and later Australia proved to be educational and traumatic at the same time. We witnessed a seemingly rapid deterioration in the Filipino people's economic condition along with ethical and moral values. By the same token, Australia demonstrated a tremendous economic potential maturity.

See Page 3

Grapevine**What Disc Golf Club Wanted to Accomplish**

Following is a letter sent Mar. 5, 1998 to Marvin Yee, project manager at S.F. Recreation and Parks Department from Ross Hammond on the S.F. Disc Golf Club.

Dear Marvin

I am writing to let the Department know that the San Francisco Disc Golf Club, at its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on March 2nd, voted to withdraw its proposal for a disc golf course at John McLaren Park, effective immediately.

Last August the Club approached the Department about whether the idea of a disc golf course in McLaren was feasible and was informed about the proposed process. Over the next few months, we met with community groups and physical education instructors, and addressed a community safety meeting concerning McLaren Park. During our time in the park designing the proposed course, we also spoke with a number of regular park users. Based on the responses we received over these several months, which ranged from neutral to extremely positive, the next step in the process was to present the proposal to the community-at-large. The first community

meeting in December was mainly positive except for the sentiment that public outreach had been woefully inadequate. Accordingly, another meeting was scheduled for February 8th, preceded by a series of course walk-throughs.

We (the Club) were under the impression that the purpose of the second were under the impression that the purpose of the second meeting was to receive more feedback from the community on our proposal. We assumed that there would be many questions about the game and the specifics of our proposal and that we would then come back at a later time with a revised proposal which incorporated the community's concerns and suggestions. However, it was apparent as soon as the meeting started that a significant number of people in attendance thought the course was going to be railroaded through without their involvement or input. We saw disc golf suddenly transformed from an inexpensive game that can be enjoyed by people of all ages into a lightning rod for the frustration and distrust felt by some of the residents in McLaren immediate neighborhood. They believe that the City has systematically neglected the park in a manner befitting its unique beauty and importance as San Francisco's second largest park. They also felt that the City does not adequately consult with them over changes to the park which will most affect them as the park's closest neighbors.

We were also rather stunned by some of the misinformation concerning what disc golf course involves and would have liked an opportunity to address that as well. Some of the more incredible notions included that golf discs are made of metal, that the fairways would be paved, that dog walking would be restricted or banned, that there would be 1,000 additional cars in the park every day, that property values would plummet, that tournaments would draw 15,000 people, and that trees would be destroyed. Meanwhile, the signed letters of support from PE teachers and community groups, and the written testimony of many other parks departments (all of whom have had extremely positive experiences with disc golf courses), did not seem to matter. Nor did the report from the Department Natural Areas Director stating that the course would have minimal environmental impact on McLaren natural areas. It was as if two completely different meetings on two completely different

topics were taking place.

In the future, we hope that the Parks Department will implement as quickly as possible those park improvements that have been approved and budgeted for. The park—and the neighborhood—deserve no less. Should other viable proposals for McLaren Park be brought forward in the future, we would also ask that the Recreation and Parks Department make it a point to clearly explain the purpose and process of community meetings so that residents do not perceive that they are simply being asked to rubber stamp projects that have already been approved. In the meantime, the Club will continue to work with those organizations and individuals in the community committed to protecting the park and organizing positive activities for young people.

The members of the San Francisco Disc Golf Club remain as committed to Disc Golf today as the day in August when we first contacted the Department. We know that disc golf is fun, inexpensive, healthy and an environmentally friendly game that can be enjoyed by City residents of all ages, abilities, and incomes. We will continue to share our enthusiasm for this great game with physical education instructors, youth centers, and other interested individuals and organizations throughout the City.

Sincerely,

Ross Hammond
S.F. Disc Golf Club**How Recycling Reduces Global Warming**

by David Assmann,
Public Outreach Coordinator,
San Francisco Recycling Program

As the memory of El Nino gradually fades into spring and summer, it may be tempting to think that the bad weather is behind us and that we can't do anything about the weather anyway. However, that's not entirely true. The record world temperatures over the last 12 years, the unprecedented weather events like the severe tornadoes in Florida in February and the increasing number of hurricanes and other severe weather events are actually part of a pattern—that of global warming. And most scientists agree that global warming is mainly caused by human activities, through the production of greenhouse gases.

What does this have to do with recycling? Even though the primary source of greenhouse gases is the burning of fossil fuels for activities such as generating electricity and driving cars, garbage production also produces these gases.

There are three ways that garbage is connected with the production of greenhouse gases. The first is through energy consumption associated with making, transporting, and using the material or product that ends up in the garbage. This involves the burning of fossil fuels, which creates greenhouse gases. The second is through non-energy related manufacturing emissions, such as the carbon dioxide released when limestone is converted to lime for aluminum and steel manufacturing. The third is methane emissions from landfills. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas that is created when garbage decomposes.

Since energy consumption, manufacturing emissions and the volume of garbage deposited in landfills can be reduced through recycling and waste prevention, reducing the amount of garbage we produce helps reduce the problem of global warming.

The U.S. Climate Change Action Plan, issued by President Clinton after the 1992 International Earth Summit, called for a 108 million metric ton reduction in the production of green-

house gases. To put this into perspective, this is equivalent to taking 83 million cars off the road. Since that's not likely to happen, the plan calls for 50 different initiatives to reduce the production of greenhouse gases. One of these initiatives calls for accelerated waste prevention and recycling. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimated that nationwide waste prevention and recycling efforts could reduce annual emissions by more than 5.5 million metric tons a year. This is as effective in reducing emissions as taking more than 4 million cars off the road.

San Francisco residents can help this nationwide effort through increased recycling and waste prevention efforts. We're already playing an important role. Last year, we kept more than 70 million pounds of greenhouse gases out of the air through our paper recycling efforts alone. However, we could reduce greenhouse gas emissions by another 55 million pounds if we recycled just 50 percent of the paper we still throw into the trash.

Similarly, if we recycled half the aluminum and steel cans and the plastic bottles we still throw away we could reduce greenhouse gas emissions by another 10 million pounds.

Every individual effort helps us solve this global environmental problem. For example, for every pound of aluminum cans you recycle, you keep 4 pounds of greenhouse gases out of our atmosphere.

Another way you can help is by composting your food scraps. If you have a back yard, or an outdoor area for a compost bin, it's an easy way to help the environment and produce a good soil amendment that can be used as fertilizer for a garden or house plants.

On Saturday April 25th, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the San Francisco Recycling Program, in cooperation with the San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners (SLUG), will be selling \$100 compost bins for only \$19.50. The sale, which is on a first come, first served basis, will be held at Goodman Lumber at 445 Bayshore Blvd. We'll also be selling worm bins that can be used in small spaces. These will be sold for the same price.

Each bin comes with a free composting book, and staff will be on hand to answer questions and demonstrate the use of the bins at the sale. In addition, there are free workshops held in various locations throughout the City to show residents how easy it is to compost. We also provide free brochures and other literature on composting. For more information on the sale, the free workshops or to receive free literature, call SLUG at 285-7585.

The Feb. 8th meeting was so disruptive, and dialogue so impossible, that a substantive discussion of the proposal could not be achieved. There were significant misconceptions about both the game and the specifics of our proposal which we were unable to address given the volatile nature of the meeting. Major elements of our proposal never got mentioned or, if they did, got lost in all the anger. We had hoped to explain that a disc golf course would not interfere with dog walking or other park uses and that any final layout would have safety and environmental protection as its primary concerns. We attempted to point that out, out of respect for the other priorities of the park, we were willing to raise the bulk of the project costs for this very inexpensive recreational investment. In response to suggestions from members of the community, we had wanted to emphasize that a course would not be installed until problems with the park's bathrooms were fixed, that tee pads would be made of wood-chips rather than concrete or asphalt, and that additional trash cans would be placed along the course.

We were also rather stunned by some of the misinformation concerning what disc golf course involves and would have liked an opportunity to address that as well. Some of the more incredible notions included that golf discs are made of metal, that the fairways would be paved, that dog walking would be restricted or banned, that there would be 1,000 additional cars in the park every day, that property values would plummet, that tournaments would draw 15,000 people, and that trees would be destroyed. Meanwhile, the signed letters of support from PE teachers and community groups, and the written testimony of many other parks departments (all of whom have had extremely positive experiences with disc golf courses), did not seem to matter. Nor did the report from the Department Natural Areas Director stating that the course would have minimal environmental impact on McLaren natural areas.

To me, we had more good times than bad ones. It's just that as soon as something bad happened, that's all people talked about. We never had a chance to show how good we were, and every time we invited other people from other places and communities, most of the time it was just the "Tower Family" that came. We will remember all of these things and they are now a part of our heritage—the legacy we carry to our new Heritage Homes!

Respectfully,
Missy Raglin

Compost and Worm Bins at Earth Day

A revolutionary new worm bin made of post consumer recycled money from Australia (no typo—their bins are made of plastic, and they turn the old ones into compost bins) and the famed Earth Machine backyard composter will be available to City residents during a one-day event sponsored by the San Francisco Recycling Program.

Both the *Wriggly Wrench* worm bin and the *Earth Machine* backyard composter will be available to San Francisco residents at the subsidized rate of \$19.50 (80 percent below retail cost) on April 25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Goodman Lumber parking lot, 445 Bayshore Blvd.

The compost bins are part of SLUG's home composting initiative aimed at reducing the vast amount of organic waste (fruit, vegetable and yard trimmings) going to the landfill. More than 11,000 bins have already been distributed to local residents, and the City has a goal to distribute 10,000 more before the millennium.

"Home composting is taking off across the planet," said Carl Grinn, SLUG's education director. "People see how much it helps their gardens grow and saves them on their garbage bills."

In this country alone, cities and counties in nearly every state have home composting programs. It is one of the most ecological and economical ways to keep material out of our landfills."

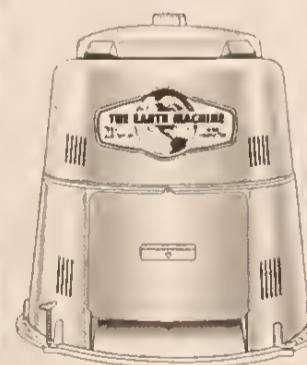
Compost your grass, leaves and kitchen scraps into rich soil for your house plants or garden

One Day Only (Rain or shine)

Backyard Compost Bin Sale

Saturday April 25th, 9am to 3pm

Sponsored by the San Francisco Recycling Program



Your choice of only one bin

\$19.50*
Tax included
\$90 retail value

while supplies last

Earth Machine
buyers
are not eligible



The
Wriggly
Wrench

- 25" tall x 16" x 18"
- Fun for kids and adults
- Patented stacking design
- Great for apartments or small spaces

• Cash, check or VISA/Mastercard
Offer for San Francisco residents with valid ID

Only one bin per household (Previous year bin buyers are not eligible)

THE EARTH MACHINE

- Convenient, no turning required
- Easy, snap-together assembly
- Enclosed design, locking lid
- Easy harvesting through sliding door
- 34" tall x 38" in diameter
- Big enough for a family of five
- Includes FREE composting book
- Light & easy to carry fits into any car

San Francisco
RECYCLING
PROGRAM

Call the Rotline
285-7585
for more information.



SAN FRANCISCO
LEAGUE OF
URBAN
GARDENERS



Goodman Lumber
Parking Lot

445 Bayshore Blvd.
near Alemany Blvd.

GRAPEVINE

VISITACION VALLEY

Published monthly by Visitacion Valley Community Center, 50 Raymond Ave., San Francisco, CA 94134
Executive Director: Julia A. Kavanagh (415) 467-9300 Fax 467-3757
E-mail: visitvalley@earthlink.net
http://home.earthlink.net/~visitvalley
Editor: Len Appiano
Valley Reporter: Gerry L. Galvan
Billing: Florence Pewtherer
Visitacion Valley Grapevine was named by Pat Crocker and is a registered California trademark of WVCC. Opinions expressed in the Grapevine are not necessarily those of WVCC.
©1998 WVCC. All rights reserved.

Two Nations In Contrast

From Page 1

Our trip also left indelible memories on geographical beauty and contrast. Compared to the Philippines, a group of 7,021 small islands, Australia is a huge and awesome piece of real estate. But the former is as beautiful, if not far superior, in terms of scenic splendor.

As a nation, Australia has barely a century of meaningful existence, while the Philippines can boast nearly 600 years of contact with the outside world. Australia, where almost everyone has some form of profitable employment, is not a haven for beggars as few, if any, are tolerated there. This land of kangaroos and koalas, wallabies and quails is prosperous and on her way to compete with the best in the Western World. Meanwhile the Philippines, can only boast of citizens who vied among themselves in making politics and public office a silly game.

Violet and I were traveling as "Balibayans" on Philippine Airlines in all the trips that took us to and from Manila, Surigao del Sur, and Sydney.

Again visiting my country of birth could have been described in such glowing terms as "truly wonderful," and "heavenly," with other high sounding platitudes such as "incomparably exciting features of a progressive country," but we never saw it that way. During a visit we made in Jan 1995, I had become disappointed by Philippine customs bureau personnel, airport gate hustlers, and ever-present beggars.

Traffic there in 1998, however, was better than 1995, with the volume on main thoroughfares and side streets reduced through color coding, a newly adopted system banning all motor vehicles carrying certain plate numbers on certain days.

Although the U.S. dollar has for some time commanded \$1 to 40 pesos in the Philippines, we found ourselves trying very hard to stretch travel money. It seemed that everything, including doleouts to street urchins, was atrociously expensive.

One day as my wife and I were getting ready to travel, a young boy of maybe seven or eight years approached me for money. When I handed him a peso, he looked at the coin demurely. When asked if he realized how much was given him he shot back with, "Piso?" He obviously was unhappy with the amount I had given him. Now during the late 1960s when my family and I were still living in the country, a Philippine peso was more than enough for three quality haircuts. But in 1998, it's quite apparent that such an amount means almost nothing.

And now it also seems that just about everybody has become politically inclined. It was disheartening to hear a report that more than 240 presidential candidates had filed their certificates of candidacy for President of the Philippines. Weeks later when we returned to the U.S. in mid-February, the number had been reduced to 83 serious candidates. Jose L. Guevarra of the *Manila Daily Bulletin*, writing in his paper's Feb 12 issue, punned, "...There are many presidential candidates, 8 are classified as serious and the rest delirious..." Guevarra also referred to the upcoming May 11 Philippine polls as "the wackiest election in history."

Jetting into Sydney midday on Feb. 5, my wife and I already knew we wouldn't have the convenience of having someone who could direct us around town, perhaps like Willen Janz from the Netherlands, who had originally explored Australia along the eastern shores of the Gulf of Carpentaria in 1606. Rediscovered by the Dutch in 1642, James Cook of Great Britain set foot on the continent in 1770 before the kingdom finally claimed it her colony in 1788.



Gerry L. Galvan (r) visited with the pastor and officials of the Cantilian Gospel Church.



Passengers squeezed onto a Surigao del Sur bus in the Philippines.



Group discussion of Church leaders in the Philippines.



Gerry and Fred, a tour driver at Blue Mountain in Australia.

Although I have a niece living in Australia and teaching chemical engineering in one of the country's universities, we failed to get her address from her sisters in the Philippines. We had earlier declined an offer from relatives of a fellow Church member to pick us up from our hotel and be their house guests.

Relying heavily on an Australian magazine which I borrowed from my daughter-in-law, one interesting piece led to other pertinent aspects of Sydney. One example was the name and phone number of a Sydney hotel where we stayed. An overseas phone call from San Francisco to the hotel led to such information as the availability of buses that charge six Australian dollars for an airport-to-hotel trip. Settling at the hotel later, we received valuable information on where to go, what form of transportation to take, where to catch buses, and the like.

One of the things I really wanted to see and be near was a kangaroo, which we experienced in the *wild-life* section of our tour. This pouched creature was one of the many unique animals we saw.

For a balanced tour of the area, we took the *Sydney Explorer*, an economical and highly efficient tour bus system charging 32 Australian dollars each for a 12-hour excursion to 22 local attractions. Arrival and departure at the designated spots was almost always on precision clock time. During the tour, we encountered a Filipino-Australian who was a driver on one of six *Explorer* buses.

In our trip to the Blue Mountains, we boarded a chartered bus a few blocks from our hotel. Our driver, who identified himself as "Frederick or Fred," guided us during our Blue Mountain tour which we started down 170 kilometers from sea level, returning to ground level



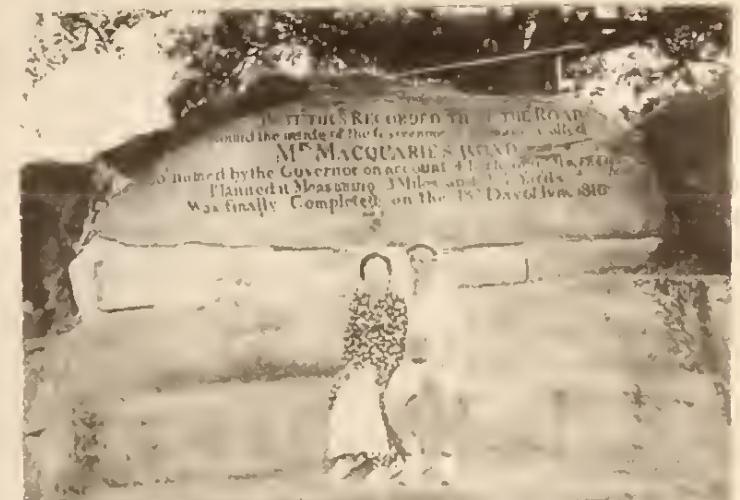
Gerry and Violet took in an Australian amusement park in Sydney.



Halfway to the bottom of Blue Mountain in Australia.



Strolling along the Sydney River.



Resting at the "Porch" along an Australian tour.

Photos: Gerry L. Galvan

el on board a train that ascended a 58 degree rail. Some of the passengers of Fred's bus elected to *stair-up* back instead. We later boarded a ferryboat that navigated the Sydney River.

Monetary exchange in Australia is fair and equitable. During our stay, the U.S. dollar commanded 1.38 Australian dollars. Hotel rates ranged from 13 to 1,300 Australian dollars per guest for a 24-hour stay.

Australian restaurants and businesses charge no tax on purchases as the government derives its revenues from amusement and entertainment establishments. Cattle and sheep are the chief industry in Australia, with beef, its by-products, and wool the principal exports.

Australian media is more liberal than the U.S. and other countries in its freedom, with newsmen writing stories on government officials in a *no holds barred* fashion.

Predominantly a Christian nation, my wife and I attended St. John Evangelist Church right across from our hotel on Darlinghurst Boulevard, later joining Church members for conversation in the garden. Most friendly was one Paul Eagan.

While in the Philippines, we had noticed an enthusiasm towards a revival of Church involvement. In Catillan, Surigao del Sur, a small town where we spent a few days, one church group related that at least 13 theological denominations were in force.

Meanwhile in Metro Manila, Carlos Abaya and his wife Monina have played a big role in "opening the eyes" of fellow persons to truth via the Bible. A certified public accountant working for a large business corporation, Rev. Mr. Abaya, was receiving no compensation pay from his church, the *Jesus Lives Christian Ministry*.

Garbage Company Meets Nemesis

From Page 1

Although the June victory is significant, vigilance must be maintained as Norcal wiggles and slithers to circumvent the environmental laws of the land. Norcal has no intention of putting up the money to meet the Garbage 2000 deadline. As it continues to promote green-sounding "pilot" recycling programs, Norcal is covering-up the fact that it is doing nothing to invest in its—or our—garbage future.

Soon, the City will be forced to ignore all reasonable environmental protections and help Norcal transform the "pilot" programs into large facilities, capitalized by increased garbage collection rates. The new—and environmentally dangerous—facilities will be "grand-fathered" into existence as they emerge full-blown out of the innocent-sounding "pilot" programs. This is a consciously-plotted end-run around CEQA and the public weal. Norcal has powerful allies in this effort.

Rather than making the garbage corporation pay its own way for assessing the impacts of expanding its own business, City Hall's Norcal-lobbyists—Chief Administrative Officer, Bill Lee, and Department of Public Works Director, Mark Primeau, and Controller, Edward Harrington, and Public Utilities Commission General Manager, Anson Moran—allowed Norcal to charge the \$3.8 million cost of the Environmental Review Application to the ratepayers. Imagine if these over-paid officials let Norcal skate on the small items, what about the hundred million dollar bills?

City Attorney Louise Renne bent over backward to assist Norcal—an indictable player in the campaign contribution and influence-peddling underworld—to skirt environmental protection laws. Renne went so far as to exercise her dubious prerogative to exempt Norcal from CEQA in regard to expanding certain features of the hazardous waste materials program.

But all the King's Lawyers might not be able to put Humpty together again now that Ralph Oroquita and Little Hollywood have pushed the Dumpster off his wall for all the world to see.

Garbage collection is a basic requirement in a functioning society. It is much too important to be left in the hands of an incompetently-run City Hall, or an un-monitored for-profit conglomerate. (The too-obvious solution is to install a competently-run City government, and to hold competitively-bid garbage contractors accountable for the price and quality of their functions.)

Land's End

Ralph Oroquita lives in the most south-east house in the most south-east neighborhood in San Francisco. Little Hollywood's 370 houses are nestled in the shadow of Bayview Hill, right off Third Street before it hustles into San Mateo county.

Oroquita's small home overlooks a garbage and trash processing facility that most San Franciscans do not even know exists. Close to a million tons of consumer and hazardous waste flows through Norcal's mammoth Tunnel Avenue transfer station each year. San Francisco's effluvia is deposited daily in a 4,500 ton pit—raked over by a giant claw—and hauled 55 miles to the landfill at Altamont.

For 25 years, the unholy noise, chok-

ing dust, loathsome insects and vermin, hideous smells, and airborne litter emanating from Norcal's dump greatly diminished the quality of life in Little Hollywood, a moderate-income, ethnically-diverse community squeezed between Highway 101 and the Bay.

Remarkably, things have now changed for the better. On the way to forcing Norcal to dump its unhealthy expansion plan, Little Hollywood compelled a slew of positive changes. The other evening, Oroquita and SFI sat on Oroquita's doorstep, overlooking the silent dump. We appreciated the dust-free night, the relatively clean Bay breeze, the savor of victory. Ralph, age 55, reminisced about growing up in the neighborhood.

"This is all landfill around here now," he said. "When I was a kid the beach came almost up to my door. It was a great place to live. Gloria Swanson had her roadhouse right near here; and that's how we got to be called 'Little Hollywood.' Those days are gone. In the late fifties, there was a quarry that drove us all crazy with constant dynamiting. It cracked open our houses. Then, in 1970, the dump came to Tunnel Avenue. There was never a environmental review like before."

Looking out his windows—which rattled like drums 20 hours a day from the noise of Norcal's heavy machines—Oroquita saw construction debris pile up against the side of his lot, until, one day, a mountain obscured his view. Then, in 1988, Norcal filed a 1,000-page Environmental Review Application to analyze the effects of expanding the Tunnel Avenue dump operations and consolidating its city-wide recycling facilities. With the assistance of the Little Hollywood Homeowner's Association and, eventually, sharp lawyers from the Golden Gate University Environmental Law Clinic, Oroquita began rising at 5:00 A.M. every day—the moment that Norcal's bulldozers fired up—and writing what became 80 pages of objections to Norcal's ERA.

After obtaining written support from almost every adult in the community, the Little Hollywood Environmental Committee began attending every public forum they could find. They laid out their case against the environmental depredations of Norcal to every public body and public official they could corner.

When Oroquita and his co-activists first met with Norcal officials, the garbage company served up delicious lunches, brotherly promises, sisterly smiles. Soon, the false smiles, the empty promises, and the fine lunches vanished. In 1995, Oroquita filed his meticulously researched and professionally presented objections to Norcal's plan to increase the volume of its dump and transfer operations. The filing was accompanied by a serious promise to sue Norcal to the ends of the earth. Two years later, Norcal summarily withdrew their Environmental Review Application—without explaining why.

Along the way, Oroquita and Little Hollywood managed to make Norcal end the excessive noise and dust, to regularly clean up the dump-litter, decorating the streets of Little Hollywood, to stop processing illegal flo-

sam and jetsam, to improve worker safety; and, in general, to conform to the environmental laws of California.

Without Oroquita's intelligence and perseverance, none of this would have happened.

One Life to Live

SFI first met Oroquita in 1996. The top floor of his house was—and still is—completely given over to anti-Norcal activities. Until recently, two video cameras—of the department store security variety—were mounted in Oroquita's living room windows. The dual spy cameras were trained on the dump twenty-four hours a day. Oroquita taped the comings and goings of Norcal trucks and documented illegal activities, including massive recycling of construction debris. (Norcal only had permits for cans and bottles.)

Oroquita also took 4,000 still pictures of health code and environmental violations. They are lovingly mounted in dozens of picture albums. The rooms of Oroquita's house are lined with shelf after shelf, stacked with files and government handbooks. Two huge aerial reconnaissance-type pictures of the Tunnel Avenue dump take up a wall. Each building is labeled, like the U.S. bombing photos of Nazis Germany you see in Gary Cooper movies.

Ralph Oroquita is a self-made expert on this dump, on CEQA; on garbage rate laws; on environmental regulations; and on anything at all to do with Norcal. The only non-dump related items in view are Oroquita's U.S. Army service awards (Vietnam)—and a huge picture of the American Eagle—talons extended.

"I have forty years of life left to live," promises Oroquita. "I may not drive Norcal out of town today, or tomorrow, but one day they will be gone. I have my cheap word processor and my little \$600 copy machine and all the time in the world. In fact, I have nothing better to do."

Oroquita possesses so much factual and conceptual knowledge about his life's work that it spills out of him as naturally as breath. He backs up every statement with file folders of facts, and he is a teacher. He will take you step by step through his arcane science, if you ask him.

Oroquita does not claim to know exactly why Norcal withdrew their Environmental Review Application. He does know that San Francisco household and apartment rate payers coughed up the \$3.8 million to pay for Norcal's private business research. He does know that the rate payers would have been hit with the full \$68 million price tag for the dump's expansion. He does know that if he had not fought the garbage company, the expansion would have already begun. Given the usual cost overruns, Oroquita just saved San Francisco consumers at least \$80 million. He is an unsung hero.

In a poignant moment, Oroquita remarks, "When people ask me where are the pictures of my children, I say, I don't have any, but I have 4,000 pictures of the dump!" There is a price to pay for fighting the powers-that-be. And, public appreciation is rare.

Garbage In—Garbage Out!

Norcal officials told SFI that they "rescinded the application because the project had evolved." It turns out that Mayor Willie Brown's City Hall has

approved a panoply of recycling "pilot" programs, such as curbside, organic produce, split cart, etc. Norcal claims that it squelched the application because, "We need to analyze how well the pilot programs are doing."

As Garbage 2000 looms, Norcal admits to having "no time line" for deciding how to handle the ever increasing need for additional garbage and recycling capacity. Norcal does say that they will temporarily lease portions of Pier 96 from the Port for limited recycling. The "master-systems" plan to move Norcal's major recycling sheds next door to Oroquita's house is dead as a dodo, they admit.

(Norcal originally wanted Pier 80 for its new recycle facilities. They lost out to Home Depot, which has been keeping a jealous eye cocked on this prime maritime turf—part of our immeasurably valuable waterfront—which Willie L. Brown is selling off piecemeal to his business friends, cheap.)

Oroquita points out that Norcal pulled a sleight of hand when they turned the "pilot" household hazardous waste program into a permanent facility at the Tunnel Avenue dump site. Ultimately, it was "grandfathered" into permanent existence without ever having to be analyzed for environmental impacts. City Attorney Renne, and City Administrator Bill Lee, are allowing all of the "pilot" projects to be "exempt" from CEQA requirements. This is a trick.

Bill Lee, who ran the Department of Public Health's toxics division before he became the highest paid bureaucrat-with-nothing-to-do in City government, told SFI that the pilot programs would be reviewed under CEQA; but he could not say when, or exactly how. When asked if Norcal would meet the Garbage 2000 deadline, Lee was typically wishy-washy. Lee's only comment was that the Solid Waste Management Program he oversees from a distance has 15-20 workers and volunteers that are working closely with Norcal.

Even after spending \$3.8 million of the ratepayer's hard-earned cash on pro-Norcal consultants, Norcal was not able to squeeze its expansionist program through the environmental review process for several reasons. Not only was the law of the landrowning upon their anti-neighborhood and anti-planet Earth plan but, also, the denizens of Little Hollywood had vowed to fight Norcal to the bitter end. Without the loud community opposition, Norcal would have been ushered into toxic recycle heaven by the recipients of its campaign favors who grace the rostrums at City Hall.

Norcal tries to project a nice neighbor policy as it "convinces" its City Hall minions to grant its garbage collection monopoly ever increasing rates; and a guaranteed minimum net profit of 5 percent. (Last year's 15 percent rate increase helped pay the \$3.8 million for Norcal's withdrawn application!)

State Senator Quentin Kopp and his vocal neighborhood supporters have been a sharp thorn in Norcal's side for years. Kopp appears at every rate increase hearing with a long list of reasons why Norcal's monopoly should be broken apart. In essence, he says, Norcal treats its subsidiaries as separate companies when it comes to calculating garbage rates and as a single entity for all other purposes. Kopp has long argued that the holding company's overall profits should determine garbage rates, not the fractured returns from ephemeral "cost centers" that can be manipulated on the books to lose money and justify consumer rate increases.

In 1993 and 1994, Norcal spent a million bucks to defeat voter propositions that would have required City Hall to competitively bid the garbage collection and recycling contracts. Norcal's slick campaign, run by Willie Brown's crony, Gail Kaufman, played off the theme: "If it's not broke—don't fix it." The proponents of reducing consumer costs through competitive bidding had no money—only logic—on their side. In a world run by soundbites, Norcal won. The majority of (de-luded) voters gave CEO Michael Sangiacomo permission to gouge the ratepayers indefinitely.

(2) Oroquita says he can be reached at 415-467-1184.

The San Francisco Investigator is published monthly (except January and August) and mailed on the second Tuesday of the month. Annual subscription rates are: \$72.00 individuals and \$99.00 institutions. Issues are 8-12 pages each. © 1998 The San Francisco Investigator, 3288 21st Street, Ste 161, San Francisco, CA 94110.

How to get in touch with SFI: Phone: (415) 285-7418 Facsimile: (415) 642-9416 Web: www.ryzome.com/sfi

Mailing ADDRESS
3288 21st St., Suite 161
San Francisco, CA 94110

workers took pride in making a productive contribution to society and in running a democratic, profit-sharing organization. Ironically, the scavengers had achieved a 50 percent recycle rate at the turn of the century.

But, by the 1980s Norcal had bought out the San Francisco scavengers and was boldly metastasizing all over the Bay Area. Nobody seems to know who really pulls the strings at Norcal. The secretive holding company refuses to divulge the exact number of its subsidiaries; at the same time it brags that it enjoys a "public-private partnership with San Francisco."

Although Norcal's employees do own stock—purchased for them by San Francisco ratepayers—it is easy to surmise that the vast majority of the company is in non-worker hands. Oroquita says that Norcal revealed that "one of its top men earns \$1.6 million a year." One thing is for sure: Norcal is no longer a San Francisco-only enterprise. It is a huge presence in Northern California and one its way to becoming a multi-national player. The ever-increasing fees that San Francisco consumers pay for the privilege of recycling are add-ons to Norcal's burgeoning bottom line, as it ships twice-skinned recyclables overseas for huge profits that are then hidden from the public eye within the tangled sprawl of Norcal's "over two-dozen" subsidiaries.

Along the way Norcal, like other major polluters, such as Exxon and Union Carbide, tries to project a "green" and "community-positive" image. Norcal's public relations strategy is patterned after the national "toxic-sludge-is-good-for-you" campaign being promoted across the land by polluters and their advertising agencies. For instance, back in 1990, Norcal contracted with a local Democratic Party hack, Espanola Jackson, to be its "community liaison" to the toxically-oppressed Bayview Hunters Point.

In return for a Third Street office, use of a telephone, a town car, free gasoline, and a salary of about \$60,000, Mrs. Jackson troubleshoots and promotes the interests of Norcal in the community, rather than the community's interests at Norcal. Norcal's interests have included driving small, minority-owned trash collection and recycle companies out of town, with Jackson's mercenary help. Norcal's Robert Reed boasted to SFI that, "Espanola is a personal friend of our President, Michael Sangiacomo."

The Tunnel Avenue dump at the far corner of our town would—right now—be a 24-hour a day rip-roaring ear-splitting poison-spewing cancer factory—if Norcal could have bought off Ralph Oroquita as easily as it bought Espanola Jackson.

Luckily for Little Hollywood—and the rest of San Francisco—the man living in the most south-east house in the most south-east 'hood held his ground. (2)

(1) SFI asked Norcal's public relations flacks if Michael Sangiacomo is related to Angelo Sangiacomo, who owns more San Francisco real estate than any other single individual. Robert Reed says he checked and they are not related.

Perhaps coincidentally, City Hall's Solid Waste Management Program is headquartered at 1145 Market Street, a property owned by Angelo Sangiacomo. The Solid Waste Management Program is currently run by Paul Horcher, a political nobody from Sacramento whose only claim to fame was that he once sold out his friends in order to curry favor with Willie Lewis Brown, Jr., Norcal's longtime attorney. Oh, Horcher and his office are also under investigation for sex-related crimes.

(2) Oroquita says he can be reached at 415-467-1184.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR SPECIAL READER OFFER

and receive a one year subscription for only \$49—that's a \$23 saving off the regular rate of \$72. SFI is published monthly, except December and August. SFI contains no advertising and is funded entirely by reader subscription. Support investigative journalism and subscribe today! Don't wait for that in-the-know-friend to fax you the latest SFI breakthrough story, get your own sub!

CALL 415. 285. 7418
OR VISIT www.ryzome.com/sfi
OR MAIL the coupon below.

YES, I HEREBY AUTHORIZE SFI TO REVIEW PUBLIC RECORDS AND INVESTIGATE THE USE OF OUR TAX DOLLARS. PLEASE SEND ME SFI ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH EXCEPT AUGUST AND JANUARY.

NAME _____

DEPARTMENT _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Check for \$ _____ enclosed payable to SFI

Clip and Mail to: 3288 21st Street, Ste 161, San Francisco, CA 94110

**SUBSCRIBE
TO SFI**

ONLY \$49

(ANNUAL)

\$72 (INSTITUTION/BUSINESS)

**SPECIAL
READER OFFER**

**Boz
Who?****Match quotes to speakers**

1 It's not that I'm afraid to die, I just don't want to be there when it happens.

2 I always turn to the sports section first. The sports page records people's accomplishments, the front page has nothing but man's failures.

3 To apologize is to lay the foundation for a future offense.

4 For nothing can seem foul to those that win.

5 Necessity never makes a good bargain.

6 The other teams could make trouble for us if they win.

7 "Please accept my resignation. I don't care to belong to any club that will have me as a member."

8 "Wit is educated insolence."

9 "Fools make research and wise men exploit them."

A William Shakespeare

B H.G. Wells

C Benjamin Franklin

D Woody Allen

E Aristotle

F Yogi Berra

G Earl Warren

H Groucho Marx

I Ambrose Bierce

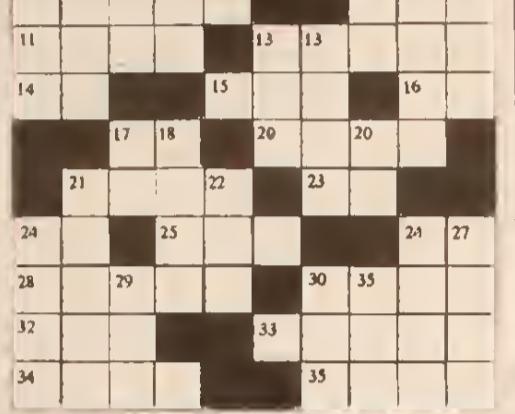
9-E, 7-H, 8-F, 9-B

Answers: 1-D, 2-G, 3-I, 4-A, 5-C

GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 S. I. tower
5 Treaty
7 Hob
10 Gun club
11 Gun
12 Alter
13 Made of
15 Spur
16 Saint
17 Georgia
19 Hand
21 Money
23 Ed
24 Virginia
25 Brown
26 District
Attorney
28 Month
40 Nova
42 Place
43 Gary
44 Plant
45 VCR format

DOWN
1 Arrived
2 On
3 Bank
account
4 2000 lbs.
6 Insert
7 Ridge
8 Sour
12 Land
13 Melon
17 17 across
18 Italian town
20 Father
21 Prank
22 Computer
in 2001
23 Broad
26 Scurvy
27 Spare
29 Route
30 G)
31 Digit
34 VCR format

**This Month in S.F. History****APRIL**

1 In 1850, a four story building at the corner of Pacific and Kearny Sts. was purchased for \$150,000 by the City for its new town hall. On the same day, San Francisco's county government was established. In 1851, Montgomery Street became the City's first illuminated thoroughfare, with street lights funded by property owners' contributions.

5 In 1848, the first American public school in San Francisco opened. In 1969, the final section of the BART trans-bay tube was completed.

7 In 1957, sections of two former cable car routes were combined to form the new Powell & Hyde Sts. line.

10 In 1878, Adolph Sutro commenced operation of his steam railroad.

11 In 1958, Brooks Hall, a sub-surface auditorium adjacent to the Civic Center Plaza, was dedicated.

12 In 1898, the bulk of Yerba Buena Island was transferred by the U.S. Army to the Navy.

14 In 1860, after a series of relays from St. Joseph, Missouri, the first pony express delivery arrived in San Francisco.

15 In 1850, the City of San Francisco was incorporated. In 1926, the Visitation Valley branch gymnasium of the SF Boys Club was officially dedicated. In 1966, dredging opera-

tions were commenced in San Francisco Bay for the sectional placement of the trans-bay tube.

18 In 1868, the San Francisco branch of the SPCA was established. In 1906, a powerful earthquake with an estimated magnitude of 8.25 on the later established Richter scale shook San Francisco at 5:12 a.m. for nearly a minute. Ruptured gas and water lines contributed to the worst fire in the City's history. In 1907, the Fairmont Hotel was opened.

19 In 1850, the British long Warlock arrived in San Francisco bringing the first Chinese immigrants from Hong Kong. In 1852, the California Historical Society was incorporated. In 1906, in the aftermath of the earthquake, 176 prisoners were transferred to the military prison on Alcatraz from the City's damaged jail.

20 In 1958, after decades of service, including 30 years running on the Bay Bridge's lower deck, Key System trains were replaced by buses.

21 In 1892, the first bison was born in Golden Gate Park. In 1940, the eventual General Douglas MacArthur Tunnel in the Presidio was opened.

25 In 1945, the newly created United Nations began its first conference in San Francisco.

28 In 1854, Howard & Hudson Co. published the City's first Chinese language newspaper, the bilingual "Golden Hills' News," to serve California's 25,000 new readers from the Orient.

Wilson High School Mar 18 in the second of eight budget meetings in eight San Francisco neighborhoods.

*Two assemblies were held Feb. 25 at Visitation Valley Elementary School to celebrate accomplishments of African Americans and their accomplishments.

*El Dorado Elementary School's student council began studying Roberts' Rules of Order to sharpen their meeting skills.

*New Job Club programs began in six S.F. neighborhoods, including Visitation Valley.

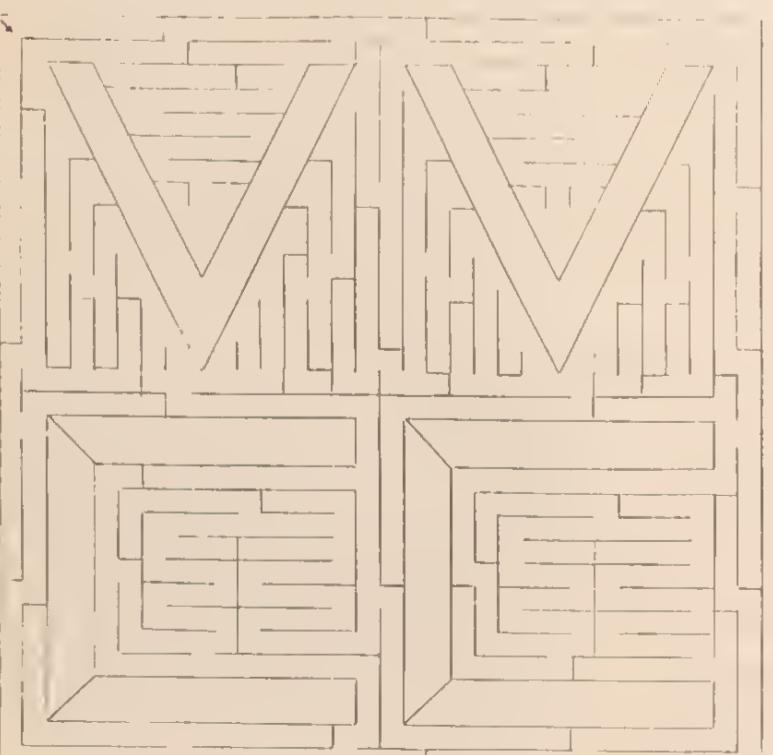
*Church of the Visitation sponsored a community meeting Apr. 3 on police presence and safety in Visitation Valley.

**FIVE YEARS AGO
IN THE GRAPEVINE****APRIL 1993**

*Special awards, good food and live music were highlights of the 75th Anniversary Visitation Valley Community Center (VVCC) Potluck Dinner held Mar 13 in the gymnasium.

*State Senator Milton Marks and wife Carolene presented VVCC with a plaque honoring the institution's 75th anniversary.

*Mayor Frank Jordan and his economic team brought financial news to

Minute Maze**Grapevine Puzzler**

N A T I O N S N E D R A G D N A S E M O H R E T T E B L A C U D
A M E R I C A N R I F L E M A N D L R O W S N A M O W A R O S I
T T G B O N A P P E T I T N O I T N E V E R P V W D A D C U B S
I E L U S N E W S A N D W O R L D R E P O R T I E R M I H N E C
O E A S Y L K E E W T N E M N I A T R E T N E C I A E E I T W O
N N M I T G Y S C I N A H C E M R A L U P O P T G D R S T R S V
A E O N R N R T T S E G I D S R E M U S N O C O H N I H E Y A E
L F U E U I O R A W E I V E R L A N O I T A N R T A C O C L N R
G I R S E T T O B W E E N O T S G N I L L O R I W T A M T I D N E
E L K S S N S P O R T S I L L U S T R A T E D A A S N E U V W E
O S T W T E E S O N T S E G I D S R E D A E R H T Y H J R I O E
G Y I E O R U G H E C N E I C S R A L U P O P E C L E O A N R T
R O M E R A R L O C A C O S M O P O L I T A N A H K A U L G L N
A B E K Y P T I Y O M E L C R I C Y L I M A F L E E L R D S D E
P L A Y B O Y V E M A E R T S D N A D L E I F T R E T N I T R V
H M V F W W O M A N S D A Y N A C I R E M A S H S W H A G N E E
I A A S D N E R T R O T O M Y S O G R A T V G U I D E L E E P S
C D N E L P O E P C M A G A Z I N E N A I N O S H T I M S R O T
O E I S H E R S G O U T D O O R L I F E Y R O T S E U R T A R S
N M T A T D E A N K S C H G R Y S N A M O W G N I K R O W P T ' E
S O Y M L I T N I I A O A O E L G N I P E E K E S U O H D O O G
U I F E A S N U V P D O N L V I A T B A S N W O R K B E N C H I
M S A S E T U M I L C K D F I M E T S E S A D N A L R O T O M D
E E I T H U H A L I I I Y D R A B L I E E I T F H O T N Y R O A
R L R R S O N S T N T N M I D F K E N K N N E O O M E A E E H R E
S L N E N N A K S G N G A G D E E P N N C O M R M C S M N K Y E
D E I E E A O S E E A L N E N R E C E A E S R T E C N O O R R P
I M P T M O A E W R L I C S A I W W T Y A H U U P A U W M O T O
G A S E B R U E D S T G B T R U S O E N F T O N A L S W I Y N P
E D M D E G L M I T A H N K A Q W R F O L I G E H L J E N W U A
S I E M O L I K M N I T L O C S E L I B E M N E S S E N M E O O
T R A V E L A N D L E I S I R E N D L E S S V A C A T I O N C S

Magazines in America

American Health
American
Hunter
American Rifleman
Architectural
Digest
Argosy
Better Homes and
Gardens
Bon Appetit
Boy's Life
Business Week
Car and Driver
Consumer's Digest
Cooking Light
Cosmopolitan
Country Home
Country Living
Discover
Ebony
Entertainment
Weekly

Elks
Elle
Endless Vacation
Esquire
Essence
Family Circle
Family
Handyman
Field and Stream
Fortune
Glamour
Golf
Good
Housekeeping
Gourmet
Health
Home
Jet
Kiplinger's
Ladies' Home
Journal

Life
Mad
Mademoiselle
Mature Outlook
McCall's
Men's Health
Midwest Living
Money
Motorland
Motor Trend
Nation
National
Geographic
National Review
Nation's Business
Seventeen
Shape
New Woman
New Yorker
Omni
Outdoor Life
Outside
Parenting

Parents
PC Magazine
PC World
People
Playboy
Popular Mechanics
Popular Science
Prevention
Reader's Digest
Redbook
Rolling Stone
Scouting
Self
Sesame Street
Teen
Vogue
Weight Watchers
Weekly Standard
Woman's Day
Woman's World
Workbench
Working Woman
Yankee
YM

Sunset
Teen
Tennis
Time

Travel and Leisure
True Story
TV Guide

Us
U.S. News and
World Report

Vanity Fair
VFW
Victoria
Vogue

Weight Watchers
Weekly Standard

Woman's Day
Woman's World

Workbench
Working Woman

Yankee
YM

13 They're the Super Bowl champs
14 On Sept. 23, he's again the top
man in Argentina

15 A new Vice-President for the
U.S. on Dec. 6

16 They're the NBA champs

17 A \$25 million bonanza, this
movie was shot in 25 days for
\$750,000.

18 She won a Grammy as Best New
Artist

A Vietnam Peace Agreement

B Universal product code

C New York Mets

D Vice-President Spiro Agnew

E Barnaby Jones

F Juan Peron

G The Poseidon Adventure

H American Graffiti

I New York Knicks

J Bette Midler

K Miami Dolphins

L The Waltons

M The Godfather

N Pepsi

O Jim Croce

P The Draft

Q Oakland Athletics

R Gerald Ford

S The Poseidon Adventure

T American Graffiti

U New York Knicks

V Bette Midler

W Miami Dolphins

X The Waltons

Y The Godfather

Z Pepsi

Historic Proportions**Match clues to answers.****1973**

1 He resigns in shame on Oct. 10
2 This became the first American
commercial product sold in the USSR.
3 Best Drama Series at the Emmy
Awards on May 20.
4 A little grid was developed but
now it won't go away.
5 After June 30, this is history
6 Best Picture at the Academy
Awards on Mar. 27
7 But this movie was the top money-
maker
8 They won the World Series
9 Baseball pennant winners with
history's worst regular season record
10 This is finally signed on Jan. 23
11 On Jan. 28, Buddy Ehsen is Jed
no more.
12 He was singing about Time in a
Bottle.

SUMP, THE CRUMP By Jackie Holder

Famous Birthdays

APRIL

1 Lon Chaney (1883), Hans Conried (1915), Ab MacGraw (1938), Jane Powell (1929), Debbie Reynolds (1932), Otto von Bismarck (1875), Ronnie Lane (1946), Max Von Sydow (1929), Sheb Wooley (1921)
2 Dana Carvey (1955), Mikhail Gorbachev (1931), Charlemagne (742), Buddy Ebsen (1908), Alec Guinness (1914), Emmlyn Hars (1948), Clint Howard (1959), Harold Lloyd (1893), Pamela Reed (1953), Leon Russell (1941), Jack Webb (1920)
3 Alec Baldwin (1958), Jann Berry (1941), Madon Brando (1924); Doris Day (1924), Ivan Dixon (1931), Jennie Garth (1972), Gus Grissom (1926), George Jessel (1898); Eddie Murphy (1961), Wayne Newton (1942), Tony Orlando (1944)
4 Bea Benaderet (1906), Robert Downey, Jr. (1965), Arthur Murray (1895), Craig T. Nelson (1946), Cameron Cawsey (1938), Walter Huston (1884), Michelle Phillips (1944), Lowell Thomas (1892), Billie D. Williams (1937), Francis Ford Coppola (1939), James

5 Janis Ian (1957), John Oates (1948), Wayne Rogers (1933), Ravi Shankar (1920), Bert Wheeler (1895), Walter Winchell (1897)
6 Patricia Arquette (1968), Bevy Ford (1918), Shelly Greene (1926), Sonja Henie (1912), Julian Lennon (1963), Diane McBain (1941), Edward Mulhane (1923), Mary Pickford (1893)
7 Ward Bond (1904), Hugh Hefner (1925), Michael Learned (1939), Nikolai Lenin (1870), Carl Perkins (1932), Dennis Quaid (1954), Avery Schreiber (1935)
8 Patricia Arquette (1968), Bevy Ford (1918), Shelly Greene (1926), Sonja Henie (1912), Julian Lennon (1963), Diane McBain (1941), Edward Mulhane (1923), Mary Pickford (1893)
9 Ward Bond (1904), Hugh Hefner (1925), Michael Learned (1939), Nikolai Lenin (1870), Carl Perkins (1932), Dennis Quaid (1954), Avery Schreiber (1935)
10 John Madden (1936), Harry Morgan (1915), Joseph Pultizer (1847), Steven Segal (1

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	12 11:30 a.m. WCC Senior Shopping	13 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. WCC Senior Ceramics	14 10:30 a.m. WCC Senior Crafts	15 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Free Sewing Class	16 10 a.m. Friends of McLaren Park Meet	18
	12:30 p.m. Bingo	12:30 p.m. Bingo		3 p.m. Beacon Council meets at VMS		
	4:30 p.m. Sunny Ten.	3:30 p.m. Valley Neighborhood Collab.				

Women's Health Campaign Launched

From Page 1

atives aimed at letting people know that St. Luke's is alive, well and a vital part of the San Francisco medical community."

A television and radio campaign aimed primarily at the Hispanic Community (which is literally in St. Luke's backyard) was launched earlier this month and will continue through June. The campaign includes advertising on television stations 14 and 48 and radio stations KSOL and KIQI.

"We believe the St. Luke's Women's Center is an incredible community re-

source that more women should know about," explained St. Luke's Health Center Acting CEO Vince Oliver. "We currently provide a full menu of services for teens through senior citizens, including annual check-ups, pap smears, family planning, pregnancy testing and complete OB/GYN care."

The Women's Center was founded by a group of physicians in 1979 and purchased by St. Luke's three years ago when the physicians retired. Women's services are provided at three separate locations: 1650 Valencia Street, 1580 Valencia in the Monteagle Medical Building on the St. Luke's Hospital campus, and in Noe Valley at 3700 24th Street.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION FACILITY QUARTERLY REPORT DATA October - December, 1997

The City and County of San Francisco is the legal operator of the San Francisco Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Facility located at 501 Taraval Avenue. Each quarter, the City publicizes information on the amount of paint and solvent emissions from the facility as well as other facility data shown below.

Household Hazardous Waste Days

Days of Operation: Thursday - Saturday of Every Week (except holidays)

Average Emissions: 1.5 pounds

Highest Emissions: 3.4 pounds on October 30

Number of Participants: 2,441 residents

Small Business Drop-Off Days

Days of Operation: October 29, November 26, December 17

Average Emissions: 7.8 pounds

Highest Emissions: 8.9 pounds on November 19

Number of Participants: 144 businesses

General Facility Information:

Total amount of waste recycled or shipped out: 205,983 pounds

Maximum amount stored: 4,993 gallons on December 3rd

The next Community/NorCal/City meeting is on April 22, 1998 at 7 p.m. at the Schlage Lock Company, 2401 Bayshore Blvd. Topic: Neighborhood Emergency Response Training. The public is welcome. Summaries of these quarterly meetings are published in the Visitacion Valley Grapevine and S.F. Independent.

Submitted by Kelley Etherington, San Francisco Solid Waste Management Program, on March 31, 1998. Phone: (415) 554-1648.

COMMUNITY BOARDS OF SAN FRANCISCO SERVING VISITACION VALLEY SINCE 1976

Are you involved in a conflict?
Resolve it peacefully at no cost.
For information or assistance, call:
863-6100

SE HABLA ESPANOL

有西班牙语工作人员

ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
240 Leland Ave., San Francisco CA 94134
(415) 586-6381

The Rev. Dr. Jerry O. Resus, Minister

Church School Classes - 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study - 11:00 a.m.
Friday Cottage Bible Fellowship - 7:30 p.m.
Saturday Choir Rehearsal - 10:00 a.m.

YOU are cordially welcome to join us for study, worship, fellowship and service. We seek to teach the Bible and to lift up Jesus Christ so He can draw all persons to Himself.

COME TO CHURCH THIS WEEK

Curbside Oil Recycling Coming Soon

Thanks to a pilot program, many San Franciscans will soon have the convenience of having used motor oil picked up at their curb for recycling. On Mar 26, the California Integrated Waste Management Board selected the City and County of San Francisco to receive \$276,000 in grant funds to implement a curbside oil pick up program in many of the City's neighborhoods.

The program will begin in the southeast portion of the City in late 1998, providing service to residents of Bayview/Hunters Point, Bernal Heights, Crocker Amazon, the Excelsior, the Mission District, Portola, Potrero Hill and Visitacion Valley.

"We're pleased to be able to offer our residents this service," said Paul Horcher, director of the San Francisco Solid Waste Management Program. "This service will be particularly valuable to residents in the southeast portion of the City, where there are a disproportionately low number of used oil

drop off sites. Many gas stations and auto supply stores have closed down in these neighborhoods, leaving residents without adequate service for oil recycling."

Dumping oil down the drain is a major source of oil pollution in harbors and waterways. The used oil from as few as 350 oil changes is enough to contaminate San Francisco's entire daily water supply.

VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY BEACON
Free After School Youth Programs
Class Time: 3:15 to 4:30 p.m.

Monday: Cooking and Sewing; Martial Arts; Swimming; Open Recreation.

Tuesday: Tutoring; Dance; Open Recreation and Sports.

Wednesday: Cooking and Sewing; Tutoring; Music Club; Martial Arts; Swimming; Open Recreation and Sports.

Thursday: Tutoring; Dance; Tai Chi; Arts and Crafts; Open Recreation and Sports.

Friday: Baking; Boy Scouts; Open Recreation.

Adult and Family Programs
Monday through Thursday: ESL Class, 9 to 11:15 a.m.

Tuesdays and Thursdays: Citizenship, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Computer, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Additional Information

Vocational ESL Class: Held at VVCC, 50 Raymond Ave. for limited English speakers interested in janitorial/custodial workplace English. Classes are Monday through Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Childwatch is available. This class can help students prepare for the janitorial program at City College.

Are you interested in free Bilingual Citizenship Classes? Classes are co-sponsored by CARECEN and the Beacon and are held Tuesday and Thursday from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Teachers are bilingual in English/Spanish and English/Cantonese.

Volunteers Needed: Parents are needed to join the Beacon, especially the Beacon Council which helps to plan the future of Beacon programs or to help with small projects, arts and crafts, and field trips.

Saturday Soccer Clinics: with Real Options for City Kids (ROCK) for youth ages 8 to 13 will be coming soon.

Next Valley Task Force meeting is Saturday, May 23, 10:30 a.m. at 50 Raymond Ave.

"If someone walks into our clinic and has no money or insurance, one of our community health aides will work with them to help qualify them for Medi-Cal or one of many other programs offered," Oliver noted. "That includes the State Only Family Planning Program, which provides comprehensive family planning services to women."

"I believe we run a state-of-the-art Women's Center," said Oliver. "Our drive to serve women of all means is clearly part of St. Luke's mission, established in 1871 to provide first-class health care services to everyone regardless of their ability to pay."

St. Luke's, a non-profit community hospital, last year ended talks with potential merger or alliance partners when the Board of Directors determined the hospital could provide better service to the community by remaining independent.

To Advertise in the Grapevine

Display: Full Page: \$150; 1/2 Page: \$80; 1/4 Page: \$45; 1/8 Page: \$25; 1/12 Page: \$15

Want-Ads (Private Party): 20 words for \$1. Extra line 50 cents. Mail ad and payment by 20th of prior month to: Visitacion Valley Grapevine, 50 Raymond Ave., San Francisco, CA 94134.

HO'S ORAPERY COMPANY

3550 San Bruno Ave., 468-4053

HONG YUN RESTAURANT (Vietnamese), 73 Leland Ave., 469-5686

JOHN KING SENIOR CENTER, 590 Leland Ave., 239-6233

KARATE U.S.A., 38 Leland Ave., 469-9886

KOREAN FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 333 Tunnel Ave., 468-1213

KWDK HONG CHINESE HERBS, 57 Leland Ave., 585-8751

LELAND AVENUE DRY CLEANING, 151 Leland Ave., 586-1412

LELAND HOUSE, 141 Leland Ave., 405-2000

LELAND LAUNDRY WORLD, 44 Leland Ave.

LITTLE OUIAPO BAKE SHOP, 169 Leland Ave., 239-2253

LITTLE VILLAGE MARKET, 1450 Sunnydale Ave., 586-1815

LUAN FAT BAKERY, 110 Leland Ave., 585-1167

MAY MAY BEAUTY SALON, 60 Leland Ave., 337-9381

M & M SHORTSTOP (grocery), 2145 Geneva Ave., 585-0878

McCALL'S HAIR STYLING, 3585 San Bruno Ave., 467-7319

MIZ RENA'S SALON, 19 Blanken Ave., 467-3399

M-3 LOCKSMITH, 200 Leland Ave., 587-8403

NAILS BY JENNY (manicurist), 50 Leland Ave., 333-6800

NATIONWIDE PAPER COMPANY, 345 Scherwin St., 586-9160

A NEW START HAIR STUDIO (Joyce Hollins), 224 Leland Ave., 584-3077

OLIVIA'S PLACE (tavern), 2600 Bayshore Blvd., 239-7711

PACIFIC FISH & POULTRY, 2155 Bayshore Blvd., 468-6800

PICCOLO PETE (deli), 2155 Bayshore Blvd., 468-6800

PORTOLA FOOT & ANKLE CLINIC (Or. Oviyang Patel) 2858 San Bruno Ave., 467-7500

REIGE VIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 590 Leland Ave., 239-5457

ROYAL PACIFIC MORTGAGE (financing), 46 Leland Ave., 333-4900

RUSSIA HOUSE (restaurant), 2011 Bayshore Blvd., 467-0252

ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 240 Leland Ave., 586-6381

SAM'S OELI & LIQUOR, 25 Leland Ave., 239-7183

SAN ON HERBS, 33-A Leland Ave., 585-7469

SARI-SARI FOOD STORE, 38 Leland Ave., 239-7183

HENRY SCHINOEL (realtor), 239-5850

SCHLAGE LOCK (manufacturer), 2401 Bayshore Blvd., 467-1100

7-119 CONVENIENCE STORE, 2200 Bayshore Blvd., 467-1711

SHIREL'S GROCERY & FLOWERS, 1401 Visitacion Ave.

SHIREL'S SOUL FOOD, 107 Leland Ave., 239-5141

THE SHOP (J.B. barber), 178 Leland Ave., 239-6709

SILVESTRI GARDEN ORNAMENTS, 2635 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5990

SIN FUNG VIDEO, 144 Leland Ave., 586-1038

SMITH'S SIGNS, 153 Leland Ave., 333-2700

SMITTY'S MARKET, 2610 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5506

TAMMIE'S HAIR DESIGN, 3564 San Bruno Ave., 330-9635

TAUTUA MO OE (Samoa grocery, gifts, fabric), 15 Leland Ave., 585-0509

TW AUTOMOTIVE (mechanic), 2500 Bayshore Blvd., 585-8281

TATE ELECTRIC (Joel Tate, electrical contractor), 467-4657

TEOODY'S MARKET, 298 Teddy Ave., 3-N-1 LEARNING ACADEMY, 240 Leland Ave., 584-8555

THRIFTLOOGE, 2011 Bayshore Blvd., 467-8811

TUNTEX U.S.A. (developer), 150 Executive Park Blvd., 468-6676

TWO JACK'S RESTAURANT (seafood and burgers), 167 Leland Ave., 337-0433

VALLEY AUTO & TRUCK SUPPLY (Bill Conte),

USF to Host Computer-Ed High Tech Summer Camp

When Computer-Ed High Tech Camp began in Boston in 1982, the idea of replacing the traditional camp icons of tents and bug juice with computers and web pages seemed a little odd. However, computer camp has become one of the coolest ways to spend the summer.

Today's kids are spending their free time exploring the World Wide Web, experimenting with programming languages and playing networked games with friends on the other side of the world.

Computer-Ed High Tech Camp offers a computer savvy generation of 8-17 year olds cutting-edge classes combined with sports clinics, art work-

shops, recreation time and weekend and evening trips.

Computer-Ed encourages pulling apart technology in classes like *Build and Repair a PC*, in which campers take apart computers, figure out how each microchip, coil and cable contributes to the computers' functioning.

Hosted locally by the University of San Francisco (USF), Computer-Ed is both a day and residential camp. An extended day option is also available. Meals are provided by the USF cafeteria, while residential campers live in the USF dormitories. Campers and staff have come from all over the country and the world to experience a computer-filled summer, including Ja-

maica, Hong Kong, United Arab Emirates, Hungary, Brazil and many Western European countries.

But this residential camp is not limited to kids from outside the Bay Area. Many San Francisco residents choose to live on campus because of the fun dormitory atmosphere, weekend trips, evening lab time, and to experience "living away from home."

A diverse, accommodating Computer-Ed staff includes teachers, college students, Internet experts, athletes, artists, former campers, and business professionals.

There will be two sessions this summer, the first from June 28 to July 10, and the second from July 12-24.

Campers can choose to attend either or both sessions.

New this year is Web Broadcasting—a brand new technology where camper-written radio shows will be transmitted over the Internet. Of course, Web Publishing remains popular, as many campers want to learn the skills that will enable them to be part of the high-demand web site design field.

For those with an artistic side, campers can compose pieces in Computer Music, or create a gallery of artwork, digital photographs and animations in Computer Art and Graphics, Image Processing and 3-D Modeling.

Because Computer-Ed is a "high-tech" camp, classes go beyond PCs. You'll find camper-built Radio Controlled Cars zipping around the sidewalks and homemade rockets soaring

overhead. A Legotechnics class teaches engineering by dropping eggs out windows, while the Electronics class cooks hot dogs with a battery.

All major programming languages are taught, including Basic, Pascal, C, C++, HTML and Java.

In addition to having fun with new technology and new friends, campers can learn skills that eventually put them on the brink of the exploding computer job market. Many high school students find these classes give them an edge in applying to competitive colleges, with an added advantage once they arrive.

For information, call 1-888-2COMPED or e-mail camp@computered.com. San Francisco site director, Elissa Bradley, can be reached for inquiries of any sort, day or evening, at (415) 522-1848.

Grapevine on the Net

Nearly a year of the Visitacion Valley Grapevine can be found on the Internet with neighborhood history, Task Force news and local business listings at <http://home.earthlink.net/~visvalley>. E-mail the Grapevine anytime at visvalley@earthlink.net

Recipe of the Month

CHOW MEIN CASSEROLE

1 pound hamburger, 3/4 cup celery, chopped, 3/4 cup onion, chopped, 1 1/4 cup hot water, 1/2 cup uncooked rice, 1/2 tsp salt, 1 can chicken and rice soup, 4 oz mushrooms, 1 tbsp brown sugar, 2 tsp soy sauce, 1 tsp butter or margarine; 1 1/2 cup chow mein noodles.

Cook and stir hamburger, celery and onion until hamburger is light brown, then drain. Pour water on rice and add salt in greased 2 qt casserole. Stir in ham, soup, mushrooms, sugar, soy sauce and margarine. Cover and cook in 350 degree oven for 30 minutes; stir. Cook uncovered for 30 minutes longer. Stir in noodles, serve immediately.

Note: Water chestnuts or bamboo shoots may be added if desired. Serves 4.

KICKSTART YOUR HEART

WITH KICKBOXING, KARATE & AUTHENTIC MUAY THAI

JUMP! KICK! PUNCH!

MONEY BACK
GUARANTEE!

WORLD MUAY THAI TEAM USA

2575 Ocean Ave. at 19th Ave. • 998 Geneva Ave. at Paris • 3277 Mission St. at 29th St. • 38 Leland Ave. at Bayshore

333-3496 • 584-1111



Cathy Kline Saunders
Lifetime Senior Marketing Consultant
Broker Associate

CAMERON-JONES REALTORS,® INC.

For Any of Your
Real Estate Needs
Call Me

(415) 334-0800 (Office)

(415) 276-9160

2566 OCEAN AVENUE @ 19th
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94132